

# India Buddhist Pilgrimage Tour

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This tour takes you from the Ajanta caves created nearly thousand years after the Nirvana of Lord Buddha to the place where he attained his enlightenment. On this tour you will visit Mumbai, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Agra, Varanasi, Bodhgaya, Delhi and more.

Mahaparinibbana Sutta discoursed by Buddha himself stated that for purification of soul. One should travel through the sites where he traversed and found the real meaning of life beyond pain and suffering. The Buddhist Pilgrimage Tour by India Rail Tours takes a pilgrim to the sites where Buddha had his birth, attained enlightenment, discoursed his first sermon, attained Parinirvana along with sites where he travelled extensively and lived his life's different episodes. Other than that are edicts, Stupas, universities and Viharas of Buddhist importance

Itinerary

## **Day 01: Arrival in Delhi**

Welcome to Delhi, the capital of India. You will be received and transferred to the hotel. You have the remaining day to brace up for the excitement ahead.

## **Day 02: Delhi Sightseeing**

Daylong sightseeing tour of Old Delhi (Shahjahanabad) and New Delhi (Lutyens Delhi). The tour covers the rich monumental and cultural heritage that the capital of India is proud of. Overnight at the hotel.

## **Day 03: Delhi - Agra - Varanasi**

Morning transfer to Railway Station to connect Train # 2002 Bhopal Shatabdi Express dep. 06:00 hrs. arr. Agra at 07:55 hrs. Later leave for sightseeing tour of Agra, the city of the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Itamad-du-daula. Evening transfer to Railway Station to connect Train # 4854 / 4864 Marudhar Express dep. 21:15 hrs. Overnight on board. (Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays)

## **Day 04: Varanasi - Sarnath - Varanasi**

Arrival in Varanasi at 09:30 hrs. On arrival check-in at the hotel and refresh for a visit to Sarnath -the place where Lord Buddha preached his first Sermon in 590 BC. Afternoon sightseeing tour of Varanasi, visiting Ghats, Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Gyanvapi Mosque, Durga Temple, Banaras Hindu University, Ram Nagar, Fort and Museum. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 05: Varanasi - Bodhgaya**

Early morning boat-ride on the River Ganges. Afternoon transfer to Railway Station to connect Train # 3030 Doon Express dep. 16:25 hrs. arr 21:42 hrs. Overnight in a hotel. Bodhgaya is one of the holiest Buddhist pilgrimage centers in the state of Bihar. It was here that Gautama attained enlightenment and became Buddha under the "Bodhi" tree Satabodhi Temple. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 06: Bodhgaya**

Full day visit to temples including Mahaparinirvana Temple in Bodhgaya. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 07: Bodhgaya - Rajgir - Nalanda - Patna**

Leave Bodhgaya for Patna (229 kms / 6-7 Hrs) en-route visiting Rajgir & Nalanda. Patna is the 2500 year old capital city of Bihar. Rajgir was capital of 6th century Magadha Empire and was revered site of Buddha's discourses. Buddha spent many years here. Nalanda is the world's oldest university founded in the 5th century. Overnight at a hotel in Patna.

#### **Day 08: Patna - Vaishali - Kushinagar**

Morning leave Patna for Kushinagar (253 kms / 8 hrs) en-route visiting Vaishali -located 60 kms from Patna and holds special significance for Buddhist devotees. Kushinagar is the place where Buddha passed into Maha-Parinirvana. Afternoon visit Kushinagar the various stupas and temples. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 09: Kushinagar - Lumbini - Sravasti**

Leave Kushinagar by road for Lumbini (170 kms / 4-5 Hrs) – the birthplace of Buddha and is located just a few kilometres inside Nepal. Sightseeing tour of Lumbini and thereafter leave

for Sravasti by road (225 kms / 6 hrs). On arrival transfer to hotel and overnight stay.

**Day 10: Saravasti - Sahet & Mahet - Lucknow - Delhi**

Morning visit to Sahet & Mahet -15 kms from Balrampur and the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Kosala. Sravasti has the honour for sheltering Buddha for 24 rainy seasons in the Jetvana Vihar and has the famous Anand Bodhi tree, age-old stupas, majestic monasteries and several temples. Buddha is said to have performed some miracles here. After sightseeing leave for Lucknow by road (175 kms) and connect Train # 2557 Sampark Kranti Express dep. 22:55 hrs. Overnight on board.

**Day 11: Delhi - Onward destination**

Arrival in New Delhi at 07:35 hrs. Transfer to international airport for flight to onward destination (Hotel Checkout 12:00 Hrs).